



## Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office  
Michigan Hall of Justice  
P.O. Box 30048  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
517-373-0128

Milton L. Mack, Jr.  
State Court Administrator

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 23, 2017

TO: Trial Court Judges  
cc: Court Administrators  
Probate Registers

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

RE: Judicial Workload Assessment 2018

---

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is committed to ensuring that its Judicial Resources Recommendations (JRR) reports are both accurate and achievable. As such, we adjusted case weights to reflect current practice, visited courts that experienced a recent reduction, and are preparing for a statewide judicial workload assessment in 2018.

Before the 2017 weighted caseload data was analyzed, the Judicial Resources Advisory Committee (JRAC) assisted SCAO in making its third set of quality adjustments to the case weights since the 2010 time study. The most recent adjustments took into account:

- *In re Sanders* in child protective cases.
- New business courts.
- District court activity on felony cases.
- Additional time to assess the obligor's ability to pay.
- Three new types of problem-solving courts.

To assess the impact of previous judicial reductions on the local courts, regional administrators conducted site visits with courts where a reduction took effect before 2015. These visits provided useful information for the [2017 JRR report](#) and will continue to impact future recommendations. The following courts participated in these visits:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties | • Lapeer County                        |
| • Alpena and Montmorency Counties            | • Newaygo and Oceana Counties          |
| • Benzie and Manistee Counties               | • Sanilac County                       |
| • Calhoun County                             | • 25th District Court – Lincoln Park   |
| • Chippewa County                            | • 52nd District Court – Oakland County |
| • Kalamazoo County                           | • 54A District Court – Lansing         |

To ensure that the weighted caseload analyses continue to accurately reflect judicial needs, periodically we need to assess judicial workload. Because [the last workload assessment](#) took place in 2010, SCAO

October 23, 2017

Page Two

contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct the next workload assessment in 2018. In early December, JRAC will meet with SCAO and NCSC to plan for this project. If you have any thoughts about this assessment, including areas to be studied, please share them with a committee member or the SCAO.

### **Judicial Resources Advisory Committee (JRAC) Members**

**Chief Judge Robert J. Colombo**

Michigan Judges Association (MJA)  
3rd Circuit Court  
313-224-5261  
[robert.colombo@3rdcc.org](mailto:robert.colombo@3rdcc.org)

**Judge Joseph J. Farah**

Michigan Judges Association (MJA)  
7th Circuit Court  
810-424-4355  
[jfarah@co.genesee.mi.us](mailto:jfarah@co.genesee.mi.us)

**Chief Judge Susan L. Dobrich**

Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA)  
Cass County Probate Court  
269-445-4452  
[sued@cassco.org](mailto:sued@cassco.org)

**Chief Judge David M. Murkowski**

Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA)  
Kent County Probate Court  
616-632-5440  
[david.murkowski@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:david.murkowski@kentcountymi.gov)

**Judge Timothy J. Kelly**

Michigan District Judges Association (MDJA)  
74th District Court  
989-895-4232  
[kellyt@baycounty.net](mailto:kellyt@baycounty.net)

**Judge Thomas J. Phillips**

Michigan District Judges Association (MDJA)  
86th District Court  
231-922-4580  
[tphillip@co.grand-traverse.mi.us](mailto:tphillip@co.grand-traverse.mi.us)

**Judge Michael E. Wagner**

Association of Black Judges of Michigan (ABJM)  
36th District Court  
313-965-2200  
[michael.wagner@36thdistrictcourt.org](mailto:michael.wagner@36thdistrictcourt.org)

**Mr. J. Kevin McKay**

Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates (MADCM)  
63rd District Court  
616-632-7770  
[kevin.mckay@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:kevin.mckay@kentcountymi.gov)

**Ms. Beryl Frenger**

Michigan Court Administrators Association (MCAA)  
56A District Court  
517-543-7500  
[bfrenger@eatoncounty.org](mailto:bfrenger@eatoncounty.org)

**Mr. David L. Walsh**

Southeast Michigan Court Administrators Association (SEMCAA)  
47th District Court  
248-871-2900  
[dwalsh@fhgov.com](mailto:dwalsh@fhgov.com)

**Ms. Kathryn Sue Griffin**

Michigan Association of Circuit Court Administrators (MACCA)  
45th Circuit Court  
269-467-5500  
[griffink@stjosephcountymi.org](mailto:griffink@stjosephcountymi.org)

**Mr. Nicholas B. Wood**

Referees Association of Michigan (RAM)  
21st Circuit Court  
989-772-0911  
[nwood@isabellacounty.org](mailto:nwood@isabellacounty.org)

**Judge Milton L. Mack, Jr.**

State Court Administrator

**Ms. Dawn A. Monk**

Chief Operating Officer

**Ms. Laura Hutzell**

Statistical Research Director